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Docket No.: 4495-088

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A floor-cushion, covered with a floor-cushion bag, wherein :
said floor-cushion is divided into a buttocks-supporting portion and a legs-crossed portion,
the buttocks-supporting portion is filled with cork chips,
the legs-crossed portion contains a hard-foam resin layer that is enwrapped by two soft-
foam resin layers, thus making a three-layer structure for the legs-crossed portion, and
the buttocks-supporting portion is thicker than the legs-crossed portion and inclines
downward toward the legs-crossed portion so as to promote forward inclination of a sitter's
pelvis.
2. (currently amended): The [[A]] floor-cushion as set forth in ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein said
hard-foam resin layer is a plate-like, hard-polyurethane layer, and said surrounding soft-foam
resin layer is a soft-polyester foam layer.
3. (currently amended): The [[A]] floor-cushion as set forth in ~~Claim~~ claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~,
wherein the forward-inclination angle of the top of said buttocks-supporting portion is 5 degrees
to 30 degrees on average.
4. (currently amended): The [[A]] floor-cushion as set forth in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1
~~through 3~~, wherein said cork chips occupy 20% to 25% of the space of the buttocks-supporting
portion.
5. (currently amended) The [[A]] floor-cushion as set forth in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1
~~to 4~~, and wherein the shape of said floor-cushion is basically heart-like, with the narrower, rear

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~~wider, front~~ area of the "heart" being the thick, buttocks-supporting portion, while the wider, front ~~narrower, rear~~ area of the "heart" is the legs-crossed portion, and with the area occupied by a floor-cushion intended for females being larger than that of a floor cushion intended for males.

6. (currently amended) The [[A]] method of evaluating a floor-cushion described in ~~any of Claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein said method uses the results of:

- a short-time sitting simulation, that includes
 - measurements of a sitter's pelvic-inclination angle,
 - videotape recording of said sitting, and
 - the sitter's evaluation of his/her sensory experience of sitting comfort;
- a long-time sitting simulation that includes
 - measurement of variations in a sitter's pelvic-inclination angle,
 - videotape recording of said sitting,
 - frequency analysis of said pelvic-inclination angles, and
 - the sitter's evaluation of his/her sensory experience of a feeling of fatigue at preselected parts of the sitter's body; and
- information obtained via questionnaires concerning said floor cushion, completed by various people, including Europeans and Americans.

7. (currently amended) The [[A]] method of evaluating a floor-cushion as set forth in Claim claim 6, wherein said pelvic-inclination angles are measured by having each of a predetermined number of test subjects wear a pelvic-inclination-angle sensor belt, whereby each person's pelvic-inclination angle is measured while the person is sitting on a commercially available floor-cushion and while he/she is sitting on the floor-cushion of this invention, with said angle.

8. (currently amended) The [[A]] method of evaluating a floor-cushion as set forth in Claim 6, wherein after said sensory-experience evaluations of sitting comfort is completed there is created a radar chart that shows extracted factors obtained by processing the collected data

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regarding assessment items — using the analysis of variance method — so that the subjective assessments made by the test subjects in said sensory-experience evaluations can be utilized.

9. (currently amended) The [[A]] method of evaluating a floor-cushion as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said variations in a sitter's pelvic-inclination angle in said long-time sitting is measured three times, i.e., at the start of sitting, 20 minutes after the start of sitting, and 40 minutes after the start of sitting, for the aforementioned predetermined parts of the sitter's body.

10. (currently amended) The [[A]] method of evaluating a floor-cushion as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 6 through 9~~ claim 6, wherein said frequency analysis of the pelvic-inclination angle is done using a time-series-analysis model formula.

11. (new): The floor-cushion as set forth in claim 1, wherein the forward-inclination angle of the top of said buttocks-supporting portion is 5 degrees to 30 degrees on average.